

THE  
E. of Shaftsbury's  
EXPEDIENT  
For Settling the  
NATION.

Discourf'd with His  
MAJESTY  
in the House of Peers,

At OXFORD, Mar. 24th. 1682.

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LONDON:

Printed, and are to be Sold by *Langley Curtis,*

1681.

THE  
F. of Shalbury's  
EXPEDIENT

For setting the

NATION.

Illustrated with the

M. A. J. E. S. T. Y.

in the House of Peers.

At Oxford, 1831.

LONDON:

Printed and are to be sold by Baughly, C. & Co.

1831.



THE  
 Earl of Shaftsbury's  
 EXPEDIENT  
 For Selling the  
 N A T I O N.  
 Discourf'd with His  
 MAJESTY

In the Houfe of PEERS at Oxford,

Mon. the 24th. 1687.



HE 24th. of March,  
 the great Patriot, and  
 next under God and  
 Dr. Oates, the su-  
 preme Saviour and De-  
 fender of the Nation,  
 the Earl of Shafts-  
 bury receiv'd, or pre-  
 tended that he receiv'd a Letter writt'n in

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See Rec. Sect 42 Henry

an unknown Hand, containing an Expedient for the settling and composing the Differences between the *King* and *Parliament*. With this he made a great noise, and bustling about as fast as his leggs, and man, and stick, could carry him. It was ask'd the Duke of *Monmouth*, by my Lord Chamberlain, (that suppos'd that his Grace might be privy to this grand Affair) what the great Concern was: His Grace, (with some shew of modesty and self-denial) made answer, that it was somewhat concerning himself, wherein that Lord was (as in many other things relating to his Grace) much more forward than he desir'd he should be.

The little Lord very busy, and desirous to speak with the *King*, was told by the Earl of *Fewersham*, that he heard he had some business of great Importance to communicate to the *King*, and that therefore if he pleas'd, he would conduct him to His Majesty. The busy Earl told him, he was willing to be conducted by so honest a man as his Lordship, drolling and thinking himself guilty of a very shrewd Irony,

Well,

Well, he is brought to the *King*, and there broach'd. The Letter of Expedients is produc'd; and what do you think was this grand Secret of securing our Peace and Religion, but a Proposal for the settling the Crown on the Duke of *Monmouth*? The *K.* surpriz'd, told the Earl, that he wonder'd that after so many Declarations to the contrary, he should press him upon that Subject, that if either with Conscience, or Justice, or Nature, he could do such a thing, he would have done it before; it being reasonable, that if he had had ever a Child of his own Legitimate, he would much rather have him reign, than his Brother, or any of his Brothers Children: That his Majesty was none of those that grew more timorous with age, but that rather he grew the more resolute the nearer he was to his grave.

At that word the Loyal Earl was mightily concern'd, and cry'd out that it chill'd his blood to hear of such an expression; Telling the *King* how earnest the whole Nation was for His Preservation: that in Him were Compriz'd all their Safeties, Lives, Liberties, and Religion, and their All.

Yes,

Yes, answered his Majesty, and yet, my Lord, I am the only Arbitrary man in the Kingdom : But assure your Selves I intend to take a greater care of my Own Preservation, and in that of my Peoples, than any of You all that pretend to so much concern for the Security of my Person. And yet as careful as I am of my Own Preservation : Yet I would much sooner lose this Life, of which you pretend to be so watchful Preservers, than ever part with any of my Prerogative, or betray this Place, the Laws, or the Religion, or alter the true Succession of the Crown, it being repugnant both to Conscience and Law.

For that matter, reply'd the Earl, let us alone, we will make a Law for it.

But the K. told him, my Lord, if this is your Conscience, it is far from being mine : For this cannot be done without overthrowing all Religion, and all Law.

Aud in fine, assure your selves, that as I love my Life so well, as to take all the care in the world to keep it with Honor, so I don't think it of so great Value neither, after Fifty, as to be preserv'd with the forfeiture  
of



of my Honor, Conscience, and the Laws of the Land.

And much more to this purpose did his Majesty say upon this occasion; all so full of Reason, Equity and Justice, and with so much Resolution and Courage, as gave the greatest assurance and encouragement to all the Loyal Lords in the House, and all honest Subjects that could be; but to the Faction, the greatest Confusion imaginable.

*This was done yesterday in the House of Lords.*

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**F I N I S.**

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